

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

PUBLISHED BY THE

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE

31 EAST 69th STREET • NEW YORK 21, N.Y. • TELEPHONE: LEHIGH 5-4120

VOL. VIII, NO. 7

April 9, 1955

AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION LEAVES FOR MOSCOW ON APRIL 11. According to an official announcement in Vienna, Austrian Chancellor Julius Raab, accepting an invitation of the Soviet Government, will leave for Moscow on April 11. The Chancellor, who is making the trip by air, will be accompanied by Vice-Chancellor Adolf Schaerf, Foreign Minister Leopold Figl and Bruno Kreisky, Undersecretary of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The invitation of the members of the Austrian Government, which was conveyed to Austrian Ambassador Bischoff by Soviet Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov, was couched in the following terms: "The Soviet Government is acquainted with the positive attitude of the Austrian Chancellor, as expressed in published declarations, toward the possibility of a visit to Moscow in connection with the problems relating to the conclusion of a State Treaty with Austria. In consideration of the afore-mentioned statements of Herr Raab and in the desire to establish personal contact between leading statesmen of the Soviet Union and Austria, the Soviet Government would welcome a visit to Moscow in the near future on the part of Chancellor Raab and other representatives of Austria whom the Austrian Government considered it desirable to send for this purpose."

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AUSTRIAN PRESS APPROVES MOSCOW VISIT. The Austrian press is devoting numerous editorials and commentaries to the invitation of members of the Austrian Government to Moscow. The Socialist "Arbeiter-Zeitung" writes: "... Of course, the Moscow Government knows — and so wishes — that bilateral negotiations with Austria can only be a prelude to four-power negotiations with and about Austria. The State Treaty is a five-power matter. The Government representatives are traveling to Moscow as equal friends of both the West and the Soviet Union ... Unfortunately, the USSR undoubtedly has special and concrete interests in Austria: these are of political, economic and strategic nature. Some of these interests are compatible with those of Austria, e.g. increased protection against any danger of attack. Others are completely incompatible with our interests, e.g. the confiscation of a large number of our plants and of our petroleum, which under the State Treaty is to be remedied only in part and under hard conditions."

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WOTRUBA EXHIBITION IN U.S.A.

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SOVIET UNION AGREES TO SPECIAL FOUR-POWER CONFERENCE ON AUSTRIA. On March 24, 1955, Soviet Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov received Austrian Ambassador Bischoff and transmitted to him the reply of the Soviet Government to the Austrian Government's declaration of March 14. In this note the Soviet Government states that the Austrian Government agrees with the Soviet view that restoration of the complete independence of a democratic Austria must be carried out in accordance with the interests of preserving and strengthening peace in Europe. The view of the Soviet Government with respect to the three points of the Austrian note (see AUSTRIAN INFORMATION, Vol. VIII, No. 6) is as follows: Vol. VIII, No. 6) is as follows:

"1. The Soviet Government notes the statement of the Austrian Government that it welcomes every effective protection and guarantee of Austrian independence and freedom against the danger of an anschluss or against attacks from any quarters. This shows the need for taking realistic measures, especially in the light of existing plans for the remili-

(Continued on page 2)

APRIL 27, 1955, WILL MARK TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF AUSTRIA'S REBIRTH. In accordance with a decision of the Federal Government, all Austria will celebrate the tenth anniversary of the re-emergence of the Austrian Republic on April 27, 1955. The day will be honored in Vienna by the dedication of a memorial to Austria's dead and by the laying of a cornerstone for a monument to the late Chancellor and President, Dr. Karl Renner. President Theodor Koerner and Chancellor Julius Raab will address a joint meeting of Parliament and the Federal Council on this occasion. The significance of this anniversary will also be underlined by commemorative meetings organized by the provincial legislatures and all schools throughout the country.

ORSON WELLES TO PRODUCE FILMS ON VIENNA — WITHOUT "THIRD MAN" ATMOSPHERE. "I have come to undo the damage caused by 'The Third Man,'" declared Orson Welles upon his recent arrival in Vienna to film a number of short television documentaries for a British television company. The films, which are part of a series entitled "Around the World with Orson Welles," take the famous actor on visits to a number of countries and are not based on any prepared scripts. Welles is planning to gather impressions of Vienna and then to start filming immediately. Since he is travelling only with an administrative staff, he plans to use Austrian players in the films. "I do not intend to show the Vienna of 'The Third Man,'" Welles stated, "but Vienna as it really is."

UNDERSECRETARY KREISKY CALLS "AUSTRIAN MIRACLE" EXPRESSION OF NATION'S DETERMINATION.

In a detailed report on Austria's economic situation made before the UN's European Economic Commission in Geneva, Undersecretary Bruno Kreisky of the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs declared that the word "miracle" which is used so often in connection with Austria must be correctly understood. Declaring that the miracle in the life of a nation is its determination, the Austrian spokesman declared that Austria desires her freedom not only because a nation which aspires to a place in history must want freedom, but also because only those who are free can make their full contribution to the community of the free. Herr Kreisky also pointed out that the net income of the Austrian people had increased last year and that Austria could be one of the world's prosperous nations if she were able to regain control over her oil output as well, since current oil production is three times Austria's total consumption.

PAN-EUROPEAN CONGRESS CALLS FOR INTERNATIONAL COURT RULING ON AUSTRIA.

During its meeting in Baden-Baden, Germany, this year, the Seventh Pan-European Congress called for a prompt and proper solution of the Austrian question and addressed an appeal to all UN member nations to request a ruling on the following points by the International Court at the Hague:

1. Can the Republic of Austria, which was deprived of her sovereign rights and had no political institutions of her own, be held responsible for military actions of the German Nazi Government?
2. Can Austria, inasmuch as she bears no responsibility, be compelled under a continuing military occupation to assume obligations which could be prejudicial to her economy and her domestic political situation?

Soviet Union Agrees (Continued from page 1)

tarization of Western Germany, which increase the danger of Austria's being swallowed up by an *anschluss*. In this connection, it is necessary to discuss questions involving the withdrawal of the troops of the four occupation powers from Austrian territory as well as the measures which must be taken in the future in the event immediate danger of *anschluss* arises.

"2. The Soviet Government considers the declaration of the Austrian Government that Austria has no intention of joining military alliances or of permitting the establishment of military bases on her territory to constitute agreement of the Austrian Government with Point 2 of the Soviet Government's proposal on this subject, dated February 8, 1955. In accordance with the wish of the Austrian Government, the Soviet Government is prepared to discuss the question of the form in which an appropriate declaration to this effect might be issued by Austria. The Soviet Government confirms the need for the assumption of appropriate obligations by the governments of the United States, England, France and the Soviet Union.

"3. In compliance with the wishes of the Austrian Government, the Soviet Government agrees that the question of the Austrian treaty should be discussed separately in a conference to be attended by Austria."

AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN TOKYO OPENED. In accordance with a decision of the Austrian Federal Government, an Austrian embassy was opened in Tokyo early in April of the present year. The new post will be headed by Dr. Franz H. Leitner, who will act as special Envoy and Minister Plenipotentiary.

Austrian Press Approves (Cont'd from page 1)

The "Neue Tageszeitung," which is connected with the Austrian People's party, writes that opinions on the invitation to Moscow can be summed up under the three following points:

"1. The Chancellor has already paid visits to Washington, London and Paris. A discussion of the State Treaty problems in Moscow is a natural development of Austrian policy.

"2. The impression does not prevail that Austria is to be induced to engage in separate negotiations inasmuch as the Soviet note makes repeated reference to all four Big Powers.

"3. Even after the latest Soviet note, the guaranteeing of Austrian independence, particularly against a new *anschluss*, continues to be a matter of equal interest to all four Big Powers."

"Neues Oesterreich" sees a few obscure points in the actual framework of the exchange of notes and of the invitation, e.g. the fact that the Soviet Union merely expresses its willingness "to give consideration" to the Austrian declaration against *anschluss* and that it then adds: "Since the danger of *anschluss* is being increased in consequence of German rearmament, it is indispensable that an examination be made of the *dates* for the withdrawal of the troops of the four occupation powers from Austrian territory and of the measures to be taken in the future in the event that a direct threat of *anschluss* should become acute." The paper sees "whole mountains of uncertainty and difficulties" in this statement, especially the new interpretation of a connection between the German and Austrian problems. Secondly, as was the case at the Berlin conference, the withdrawal of the occupation troops is not connected unmistakably with completion of the State Treaty but rather with "dates." Thirdly, a large new and unknown factor is brought into the discussion, i.e. the future measures — not yet specified by the Russians — to be taken in the event of threat of *anschluss* becomes acute. Concluding, the paper sees in all this "at least a slight realistic basis for Austria's hopes for freedom" and expresses the opinion that the change in the strategic situation brought about by the factor of German rearmament may induce the Soviets to change their attitude in the question of the State Treaty.

Writing on the same subject, the independent "Presse" states "It is no secret that the invitation to Moscow is viewed skeptically, especially in Washington and London. But is Austria a less experienced country? Is it believed that Austria was asleep during the lesson provided by the period 1918-1938? Or is it thought that Vienna is cherishing hopes of overcoming the bounds of world history and of being able to establish some idyllic condition? No, Austria has a right to demand confidence in her power of judgment and she also has the right to do everything in her power to examine even modest possibilities of winning back her freedom."

AUSTRIAN PRISONERS STILL HELD BY RUSSIANS. At the present time, 348 Austrian POWs and 1,008 Austrian civilians, abducted from their country after the end of the war, are still being held as prisoners in the Soviet Union. To this number may be added 280 Ethnic Germans whose families are now living in Austria and whose admittance to Austria is not subject to any obstacles. Thus far the Austrian authorities have ascertained the address of approximately 450 of the abducted civilians. The whereabouts of the others are unknown, so that it must be assumed that they are being detained in "Silent Camps." The reasons given by the Soviets for removing Austrian civilians from the country after the war are quite interesting (in the case of over 500 persons, they have thus far not even given any reasons for their abduction): 180 for "crimes against the Soviet occupation power;" 120 for "war crimes;" 80 for "anti-Soviet espionage;" 55 for "brawls with Soviet soldiers;" 30 for "membership in the Werwolf organization;" 20 for "crimes as interpreters with the Soviets;" 12 for "involvement in traffic accidents with Soviet vehicles;" 11 for "theft of occupation power property;" 7 for "the smuggling of human beings across the Iron Curtain;" 6 for "statements against the occupation power;" 6 for "relations with the occupation power" and, finally, 3 for "relationship with Adolf Hitler."

WORLD CONGRESS OF CATHOLIC PRESS TO MEET IN VIENNA IN 1957. At its recent meeting in Rotterdam, the Plenary Board of the International Catholic Press decided that the Fifth World Congress of the Catholic Press scheduled for May 1957 should be held in Vienna. The selection of Vienna as the site of the meeting represents an act of homage to Dr. Funder, the mentor of the Catholic press in Austria.

NEW ORTHODOX JEWISH COMMUNITY ESTABLISHED IN VIENNA. Various orthodox Jewish organizations in Vienna have formed a new independent orthodox Jewish community which is to be called "Khal Israel." A resolution was passed at the organizational meeting of the new body to propose to the Minister of Education that an amendment be made in the prevailing law which provides that withdrawal from the Jewish Religious Community (Kulturgemeinde) constitutes a dissociation from the Jewish faith. The newly established organization declares that everywhere in the world religious communities exist only on a voluntary basis and demands that transfers from the Jewish Religious Community to the new Jewish community, i.e. Khal Israel, be accorded legal status inasmuch as the persons so transferring have no wish to disassociate themselves from their Jewish religion but are merely dissatisfied with the Jewish Religious Community. The new group also demands that the Religious Community be deprived of its rights, especially the right to collect religious organization taxes, with respect to persons who have made such transfers.

Elected to the Executive Board of the new association were Benjamin Schreiber, President of "Agudas Israel," Salomon Fried and Hermann Moskowicz, the presidents of the Vienna I and Vienna II sections of the new Religious Community, and Isidor Neugroeschl, President of the international "Mizrachi" organization.

AUSTRIAN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION REACHED 48.2 BILLION SCHILLINGS DURING 1954. According to summary of the Central Statistical Office, Austrian industrial production during 1954 represented a gross value of 48.2 billion schillings. The most important producers were the food and luxuries industry (7,728 million) and the textile industry (7,284 million), followed by the paper industry (4,008 million), the iron producing industry (3,768 million), the machinery, steel and iron construction industry (3,240 million), the motor vehicle industry (2,400 million), the stone and ceramics industry (2,208 million), mining (2,148 million), the metal industry (2,064 million) and the iron and metal goods industry (2,076 million).

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR SECOND POWER LOAN TO OPEN ON APRIL 12, 1955. Subscriptions for Austria's Second Postwar Power Loan will open on April 12 and close on May 7, 1955. The money raised under this loan will be used primarily to expand the Lower Austrian power plant at Ybbs-Persenbeug on the Danube. As was the case with the First Power Loan, in 1954, the main bond drive will be directed at workers and office personnel who are being offered extremely favorable conditions. The subscription campaign among wage earners is being conducted with the cooperation of payroll offices throughout the country.

1954 MAGNESITE PRODUCTION FIGURES. During the past year, the Austrian magnesite industry chalked up a further increase in production to reach a peak output. The crude magnesite yield rose from 804,504 tons in 1953 to 828,577 tons in 1954. For the same period, sinter magnesite output rose from 235,368 tons to 254,896 tons while that of caustic magnesite jumped from 37,224 tons to 90,819 tons. The new production figures are more than double the 1937 figures.

Austrian Delegation Leaves (Cont'd from page 1)

The acceptance of the Soviet invitation to Moscow and the setting of the date for the visit was preceded by a meeting of ambassadors in Vienna, under the chairmanship of the Chancellor. Present at the meeting were Austrian Ambassadors Bischoff from Moscow, Gruber from Washington, Schwarzenberg from London and Vollgruber from Paris.

It is believed in Vienna that approximately three or four days will be required for the conversations intended to clarify the views of both sides in the question of the State Treaty.

Speaking before the People's party members of Parliament, who unanimously approved the visit of the Chancellor and Foreign Minister to Moscow, Chancellor Rastbach declared that he would devote all of his energies in Moscow toward obtaining Austria's freedom and sovereignty.

Vice-Chancellor Schaerf issued a statement that the delegation would do everything in its power in Moscow to achieve progress in the question of the State Treaty. He expressed the conviction that Russia would waive her claims to the so-called "German assets" in the Soviet zone, not only to the USIA (Soviet-confiscated) enterprises but also the Austrian oil fields and the Danube Steamship Line. He pointed out that Russia had also acted in a similar manner toward Finland.

AUSTRIA TO BUILD ONLY ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVES IN FUTURE. As a result of the electrification of the Austrian railways, construction of new steam locomotives in Austria has been permanently terminated. At the present time, Austrian plants are completing 117 electric locomotives for the Federal Railways while 75 electric or Diesel-electric locomotives are already in operation. Moreover, 12 special Diesel-electric, "Blue Lightning," trains are currently operating in Austria. At the present rate of electrification, the only steam locomotives which will be seen in Austria 15 years hence will be those on display in science museums.

AUSTRIAN COTTON AND CELLULOSE PRODUCTION FIGURES. The Austrian cotton and cellulose thread industries, which now use a total of 716,700 spindles and 14,200 looms (as compared to 806,124 spindles and 15,500 looms in 1937), produced a total of 19,000 tons of thread and 160 million yards of material during last year.

INCREASED AUSTRIAN EXPORTS THROUGH EUROPEAN PORTS. A survey of 1954 export and import transshipment figures through Trieste shows a 5% increase over the 1953 figures. The increase for goods transshipped through Hamburg was 41% and Rijeka, Yugoslavia, 135% although during 1954 the Bremen volume dropped by 55%.

The actual volume of Austrian exports and imports via the above-named ports for 1953 and 1954 was as follows:

	in tons			
	Trieste	Hamburg	Bremen	Rijeka
1953:	1,408,631	218,706	806,091	35,439
1954:	1,485,925	310,300	362,350	83,338

UPWARD RISE IN MACHINE-PROCESSED CARDBOARD PRODUCTION. The total output of machine-processed cardboard in Austria has already almost reached that of hand-processed cardboard. An increase of nearly 4,000 tons of hand-processed cardboard over the 1953 levels was produced in 1954, whereas machine-processed cardboard production rose by 8,000 tons during the same period. The actual tonnage figures are:

	1953	1954
hand-processed cardboard:	32,648	36,433
machine-processed " :	25,626	33,927

AUSTRIAN TOURIST TRAFFIC SETS NEW RECORD. During 1954, the total number of overnight guests in Austria (including Austrian travelers) rose 11% over the 1953 figure to reach an all-time high of 20,790,526. Much of this increase was due to tourists from abroad, who accounted for a 24% increase over the previous year in this category. The total number of overnight foreign visitors has now reached a yearly 9,536,648 or more than ten times the 1948 figure. The detailed tally according to nationality shows Germany in the lead with 56% of the total, Great Britain second with 8% and the Netherlands in third place with 6%.

INTERNATIONAL SPA CONGRESS. On March 25 and 26 of this year the 5th International Congress of Balneotherapy was held at Igls and Bad Hall, Tyrol. The University of Innsbruck opened an exhibition on this subject at the same time.

STUDENTS FROM 17 COUNTRIES LEARN GLIDER FLYING IN AUSTRIA. At the present time Austria has four schools for glider flying, the most important of which is located at Zell am See in the province of Salzburg. During the past three years these schools were attended by 1,537 flight students, half of whom were foreigners representing 17 different countries. During the same period a total of 15,656 starts were recorded at the Zell Glider Flight School. Moreover, in the city of Graz, Styria, there is a school for parachute jumpers who are trained primarily for rescue work in Alpine areas cut off as a result of catastrophic snowslides.

AUSTRIAN HAIRDRESSERS VICTORIOUS IN NEW YORK. Richard Lang, an Austrian, was the winner of the Master Prize in the International Permanent Wave Contest organized within the framework of the "International Trade and Beauty Show." Lang together with Michael Rossmly and Hermann Bareuther, likewise Austrians, also won the first prize as the best hairdressers at the "American Hair Fashion Conference Show" where the Austrian team represented the Greater Art Hairdressers' Club.

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

MOZARTEUM ORCHESTRA TO TOUR USA. At the end of February, 1956, the Salzburg Mozarteum Orchestra will leave for a seven or eight-week tour of the United States. The concerts scheduled will be devoted to music of Mozart conducted by Ernst Marzendorfer. Performances will be given at the State Universities of Maryland, Indiana, Wisconsin and Minnesota and at Princeton, Rutgers, Northampton, Smith, Wellesley and Winthrop.

1956 MOZART COMMEMORATIVE YEAR - INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE OF RADIO PROGRAMS. Representatives of the leading broadcasting corporations from Austria, Belgium, France, Great Britain, the German Federal Republic, Italy, The Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia met in Salzburg this March to arrange the coordination of programs to be broadcast during the Mozart Commemorative Year.

At the meeting, it was agreed that all musical, biographical and educational program scripts would be submitted to a central office at the Salzburg broadcasting station for coordination and revision. Most of the foreign stations participating will transmit the major festival events of the Mozart Commemorative Year from Austria, such as the opening ceremonies in January from Salzburg, the solemn closing ceremonies from Vienna in December and many performances from the Salzburg Mozart Festival. Seven joint programs will be broadcast from those European countries which played a major role in the great composer's life and work.

Those corporations represented at the meeting have agreed to submit reports, including individual scripts of their programs in honor of Mozart's birth, to the Salzburg radio station by the end of the year.

The Salzburg Mozarteum will compile a card index of all recordings of Mozart's music for use by participating radio stations in locating and borrowing any particular Mozart recordings they require.

Following a suggestion made by Jack Bornoff, representing the Music Council of UNESCO, it was also decided at the meeting to schedule a congress to be held at the time of the Salzburg Festival at which the question of opera and ballet performance coverage by radio, TV and films will be studied by musicologists and communications experts and film and opera specialists.

Other arrangements for the Commemorative Year include the planned participation of the Amsterdam Concertgebouw Orchestra, conducted by Eduard van Beinum, at the Salzburg Mozart Festival and the formation of a committee in Lisbon for the organization of commemorative ceremonies in that city.

VIENNA PHILHARMONIC RECORDS FOR DECCA. At a recent recording date for Decca LP Records, the Vienna Philharmonic taped Tchaikovsky's "Romeo and Juliet" overture, Leo Janáček's "Sinfonietta" and all 16 of Dvorak's "Slavonic Dances." Rafael Kubelik was the conductor at this session.

ACADEMIC NEWS. Karl Wolff, the Viennese law Professor, has been invited to lecture on Academic Freedom at the University of Saarbruecken.

A series of 12 lectures on "The History and Terminology of Calisthenics" was recently given at the Cologne College of Athletics and at Bonn University by Professor E. Mehl.

This February, the Austrian theologian, Albert Mitterer, lectured on the concept of God in a changing world philosophy, from Thomas Aquinas to the present time, at the University of Muenster, Westphalia.

The head of the Surgical and Ophthalmological Department at the Vienna College of Veterinary Science, O. Ueberreiter, recently lectured as the guest of the Royal College of Veterinary Science and Agriculture in Copenhagen, Denmark.

J. Papalegas, associate professor at the Innsbruck University, has been invited to lecture on sociological theory at the University of Muenster's Department of Law and Political Science. At the same time he will work at the Dortmund Social Research Institute.

A lecture on metallurgy was recently given by R. Mitsche, professor of the Leoben College of Mining Engineering at the Copenhagen Institute of Technology.

INCREASE IN FOREIGN STUDENTS AT VIENNA ACADEMY.

The Vienna Academy of Music and the Dramatic Arts has a current total enrolment of 1,208 students, 20 per cent of whom are students from abroad. Sixty-five of these are Americans, 25 Germans, 22 Swiss, 16 Greeks, 15 British, 11 Yugoslavs and 10 Italians. The balance come from all parts of the globe: Iceland is represented with 2 students, Japan with 3 and India with 2. Most foreign students were drawn to Vienna by the Academy's piano classes which are being taken by 45 of them. Forty-three are studying singing, 32 the theory of music and 22 each opera and drama.

AUSTRIAN JUDGES AT GENEVA INTERNATIONAL MUSIC CONTEST.

Five Austrians will be among the judges of this year's Concours International d'Execution Musicale to be held in Geneva from September 17 to October 1. They are: Anton Heiller of Vienna (organ), Willy Boskowsky and Hans Pfitzner, both of Vienna (string instruments), Bernhard Paumgartner of Salzburg (voice) and Richard Hauser, Vienna (piano).

110 YEARS SINCE FIRST TYROLEAN MISSIONARIES CAME TO WISCONSIN.

This April marks the 110th anniversary of the departure of a group of Premonstratensian monks from Austria to undertake missionary work in the state of Wisconsin. The centers of their activity were Roxbury and Sauk City where churches and schools which are still in existence recall the blessed work of this order. All of these Austrian missionaries came from the monastery of Wilten, near Innsbruck in Tyrol. It was originally intended that they should establish a permanent Premonstratensian settlement in Wisconsin but the heads of the Order at Wilten subsequently changed their plans and the sending of Tyrolean missionaries to Wisconsin was discontinued around the year 1870.

AUSTRIAN HONORARY DECORATIONS FOR SCIENCE AND ART.

Pursuant to a recommendation by Minister of Education Drimmel, the Austrian Government has approved a law providing for the establishment of an honorary decoration and an honorary cross to be awarded for achievements in the fields of the arts and the sciences. The decoration will be awarded to Austrians and foreigners who distinguish themselves by outstanding creative achievements in the arts and sciences. The honorary cross (which will be awarded in two classes) will likewise be bestowed on Austrians and non-Austrians for meritorious work in or outstanding support of the arts and sciences. The law provides that the total number of bearers of the honorary decoration shall not exceed 36 Austrian and foreign citizens at any given time. The first six Austrians to be awarded the decoration will constitute a board which will submit recommendations to the Minister of Education for subsequent awards.

SCHNABEL MEMORIAL CONCERT IN NEW YORK.

This year's annual Artur Schnabel Memorial Concert will be held on Thursday, April 21, 1955, at 8:30 p.m., in the Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Leon Fleisher, pianist, and members of the Galimir String Quartet will perform works by Schnabel and Schubert. This will be the fourth concert in the series commemorating the famous Austrian pianist. Tickets are available at the box offices of Steinway Hall, 113 West 57th Street, and of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Fifth Avenue at 83rd Street.

AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES INCREASES NUMBER OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

By decision of the Federal Government, the number of corresponding members of the Austrian Academy of Sciences has been increased from 160 to 200. This measure is intended to intensify the international exchange of scientific material between the Austrian Academy and similar bodies abroad.

"YOUTH CULTURAL ACTIVITIES WEEK."

The 6th "Jugendkulturwoche" sponsors, the Province of Tyrol and the City of Innsbruck, have already received 158 entries for this festival. These consist of 78 lyric, 15 dramatic and 43 prose works, 22 musical compositions and 102 radio scripts. An increase over last years participation figures is expected by the time the closing date for entries in the field of creative arts is reached.

KARAJAN WRITING BOOK ON MUSICAL INTERPRETATION.

Herbert von Karajan, who will conduct the London Philharmonic Orchestra in Salzburg in January 1956 in connection with the Salzburg Mozart Festival, is now working on a book about his experience as an interpreter of musical works. The most important chapter in the work will be devoted to Wilhelm Furtwaengler, who gave a completely new meaning to the art of interpretation. Karajan describes himself in the book as a student of Furtwaengler.

ONLY 10 ARTISTS STILL WORKING ON VIENNA STATE OPERA RESTORATION.

Although there are still seven months until the gala opening of the new Vienna State Opera, work on both the auditorium and stage has already advanced so far that the services of only a few more artists are necessary to make the theater ready for the opening performance. As known, the reconstructed opera house has again been designed as a representative theater with loges. It will have 1,658 seats and accommodate 547 standees. The auditorium will again be decorated in white, red and gold. At the present time only 10 artists and 220 specialized workers are still engaged in the preparatory work. The new structure required 2,400 tons of steel, 7,000 tons of cement, 32,700 sq.yds. of sand, 2.5 million bricks, 5,230 sq.yds. of wood, 400 tons of lime and 435 miles of electric wire. The total cost of the project will come to approximately 250 million schillings.

The total height of the new theater's stage area will be approximately 215 feet and the main stage will be supplemented by 6 elevator stages, each of them 10 feet wide and built one behind the other. This equipment makes it possible to prepare four different sets simultaneously and to effect vertical changes in scenery. The new installations also include a revolving stage, 57 feet in diameter, which can be stored in the roof area of the theater when not in use. The stage will require two linen backdrops, each of them measuring approximately 175 ft. by 100 ft. and consisting of a single piece of fabric. The stage can be completely screened off from the auditorium within 15 seconds by means of an iron curtain.

NEW ZUCKMAYER PLAY ABOUT ATOM SPY. A new play by Carl Zuckmayer, which is to have its world premiere in Germany this September, depicts the dramatic situation of the atom spy in the present era. The action of the 14-scene drama takes place between 1939 and 1950 and tells the story of a German physicist who voluntarily emigrated from Nazi Germany. Zuckmayer is not dealing with one of the sensational atomic espionage cases of the moment but with the betrayal of atomic secrets for reasons of conviction. The German physicist of his play is brought from England to Canada in 1940 as an "enemy alien" and does not return to England from his detention camp for more than a year. There he is assigned to a team of scientists headed by a man who incorporates the brutality of nationalistic power politics turning the German scientist into a hater of the West and a Russian agent. Later, he comes to the United States where he continues to work for his employers. The third act of the play shows the German scientist being accused of atomic espionage by an American investigator. The hero of the story does not appear in the final scene: he is paying the penalty for his guilt as a convicted atom spy.

2,500 PIPES IN NEW STATE OPERA ORGAN. Work was recently completed on the new organ installed in the rebuilt Vienna State Opera House. Designed by Ferdinand Molzer, the Viennese organ builder, the new instrument has more than 2,500 pipes, the largest of which is over 20 ft. long and the smallest barely a quarter of an inch. The latter, a miniature whistle, corresponds to the G of the seven-line octave, i.e. to approximately the highest tone of a twittering bird. Operation of a single key in the first manual causes some 60 pipes to be heard simultaneously. Located on the sixth floor of the new opera house, it will be possible to play the organ from two different consoles. Transmission of the music to the auditorium will be effected by electrical means, i.e. over a 330 ft. cable of over 300 wires.

VIENNA BURGTHEATER TO PARTICIPATE IN PARIS THEATER FESTIVAL.

Vienna's Burgtheater company is scheduled to give performances of Grillparzer's "Medea" and Schnitzler's "Liebelei" (Light-o'-Love) and "Comtesse Mizzi" in the framework of the Second International Festival of the Theater in Paris. The choice of the Medea theme is of particular interest since, prior to the appearance of the Burgtheater group, the United States is presenting a play on the subject of Medea by Robinson Jeffers and Norway is offering three scenes from Jean Anouilh's "Medea."

REVOLVING STAGE OF REBUILT BURGTHEATER TO MEASURE 70 FT. IN DIAMETER.

Vienna's new Burgtheater, which is to open in mid-October 1955, will have a revolving stage measuring 70 ft. in diameter and 43 ft. in height; its total weight will be 500 tons. Storage rooms for sets, directly connected with the stage area of the new theater, are being built about 33 ft. underground and will cover an area of 8,600 sq. ft. This area will be able to house the sets for an entire week's repertory. The total cost of restoring the Burgtheater comes to approximately 100 million schillings.

MARTHA EGGERTH - JAN KIEPURA IN VIENNA. The singers Martha Eggerth and her husband Jan Kiepura have signed a contract with the Vienna Raimundtheater for another series of guest appearances scheduled for October, 1955. These performances follow their very successful programs last winter when they gave "Czarevich" at the same theater. Another Lehar operetta, either "The Merry Widow," "Country of Smiles" or "Paganini" will be included in their October program.

NEW PLAYS OPEN. In mid-March, a five-act drama "Rembrandt" (The Eternal Flame) by Peter Doerner was performed for the first time at the Klagenfurt Stadttheater. The author was born in Graz and now lives in Carinthia. His play is also being considered by the Stadttheater management for an exchange performance in Vienna.

Early the same month, "Briefe kamen aus Europa" (Letters from Europe), a new play by the author-actor Theo Frisch-Gerlach, opened at the Tiroler Landestheater, Innsbruck. Frisch-Gerlach had previously been very successful in this city with his play "Immer wieder wird es Sonntag" (It's Always Sunday Again).

WOTRUBA EXHIBITION TO OPEN IN BOSTON ON APRIL 22.

A comprehensive exhibition of works by the well-known Austrian sculptor Fritz Wotruba is scheduled to open at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston on April 22. Dr. Gruber, Austrian Ambassador in Washington, will attend the opening. On display will be 3 sculptures in stone (one of which is reproduced on this page); 29 bronze sculptures and reliefs; 23 drawings, lithographs and monotypes; 7 photographs of sculptures not on display; and 2 designs for tapestries. The exhibition at the Institute will run from April 22 to May 29, 1955, after which it will be seen at the following art museums and institutions in the United States and Canada:

1955: July 12 — Aug. 23	San Francisco Museum of Art, San Francisco, California.
Sept. 1 — Oct. 1	Los Angeles County Museum, Los Angeles, California.
Oct. 24 — Dec. 5	Seattle Art Museum, Seattle, Washington.
1956: Jan. 1 — Jan. 31	Art Gallery of Toronto, Toronto, Canada.
Feb. 15 — March 27	Art Clubs of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.
April 10 — May 10	Department of Architecture, Georgia Institute of Techno- logy, Atlanta, Georgia.

From Stone Cutter to Professor at Vienna's Municipal Art School

Fritz Wotruba was born in Vienna in 1907. The son of a tailor, he first studied the art of engraving and subsequently became a stonecutter's apprentice. After graduating from the School of Applied Arts, he developed into a master of monumental sculpture, even before the age of 21. His first exhibitions were held in the framework of displays organized by the "Wiener Sezession" and the "Oesterreichischer Werkbund" during the years 1930-36. He exhibited at the Venice Biennial in 1932, 1934, and 1948. Works by Wotruba were included in the collective exhibition organized by the Folkwang Museum in Essen in 1931 and in the International Plastic Arts Exhibition at Zuerich. In 1936 and 1937 his works were exhibited in London, Paris and Berne. Since his works were stigmatized as "degenerate art" by the National-Socialist regime in Germany, he lived in Switzerland from 1938 to 1945, during which time he held exhibitions in Bern, Basel and Zuerich. In 1948 he accepted an invitation of the French Government to participate in the collective exhibition at the Musee National d'Art Moderne. In 1949 some of his works were seen at the Museum of Art in Philadelphia. In 1950 he won the "Master Prize" of the Austrian Industrialists' Association.

Following his return to Austria in 1945 from exile in Switzerland, Wotruba was appointed a professor at and director of the Master School for Sculpture of Vienna's Academy of Fine Arts. His sculpture in stone, the "Young Giant," which was mounted on the Reich bridge in Vienna, was des-



Fritz Wotruba. "Small Thinker," 1948.

troyed during the National-Socialist period. In 1935 he completed the tomb for the famous coloratura soprano Selma Kurz. The monument to Gustav Mahler, on which he worked from 1936 to 1938, was not erected because of the occupation of Austria. Such famous works as Wotruba's "Crouching Figure" and "Recumbent Figure" are on display in Vienna's Municipal Museum and Albertina Gallery, respectively. Many of his works are to be found in private and public collections in Austria, Switzerland, England (e.g. in the Tate Gallery) and Belgium.

Two Monographs on Wotruba Published

A monograph on Fritz Wotruba, written by J. R. de Salis, has been published by the firm of Amstutz & Herder in Zuerich. Another monograph, which also covers the artist's most recent work, has just been issued by the Brueder Rosenbaum publishing house in Vienna.

"Wotruba is a rare phenomenon," says James S. Plaut, Director of the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston and the moving force behind the comprehensive exhibition of the artist's works, "...a great creative artisan whose massive talents place him unerringly on the top rung of contemporary achievement."

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ART EXHIBITIONS. An exhibition of "Famous Lower Austrian Painters" was opened at the Museum of the Lower Austrian Provincial Government in Vienna at the beginning of March. Works from the Baroque period down to those of contemporary artists, among them Martin Altomonte, Johann Schmidt ("Kremser Schmidt"), Anton Romako, Egon Schiele and Oskar Kokoschka, are on exhibit.

The "New Gallery" on Gruennergasse is now exhibiting works by the Swiss artists Kornelia Forster, Katharina Salenbach, Trudy Enger-Wintsch, Elsa Burckhardt-Blum and Helen Kasser.

Early in March, the Vienna Catholic Academic Community opened an exhibition, "Young Artists," at the Catholic Student's House in Vienna. Paintings by Wander Bertoni, Johann Fruhmann, Wolfgang Hutter, Anton Lehmden and Josef Mikl are on display. A series of discussions on the problems of modern art is being held concurrently and films, poetry readings and modern choral and organ music complete the program.

Illustrations of French novels by Hans Fonijs are now on exhibit at the French Cultural Institute at Innsbruck.

"SOCIAL VISITS TO MUSEUMS" IN VIENNA. After a long trial period, it has now been decided in Vienna, by making use of artificial lighting, to keep various art collections and museums open until 8 P.M. and thereby to encourage "social visits to museums." At the present time the Museum of Secular Treasures, the Arms Collection, the Old Musical Instruments Collection and the Museum of Austrian Culture regularly stay open until 8 P.M. At the present time, the Museum of

Austrian Culture is featuring a display of 65 Gobelin tapestries, the third largest exhibit of its kind in the world. The Austrian Gobelin collection, which enjoys a unique world reputation, consists of a total of 625 tapestries.

NEW AUSTRIAN FILMS. The Cosmopol Film Company has recently finished shooting the G. W. Pabst story of the last days of Hitler's life, "Der letzte Akt" (The Last Act). The young Austrian author, Fritz Habeck, wrote the script, basing it on a short story by Erich Maria Remarque. The part of Hitler is portrayed by Albin Skoda of the Vienna Burgtheater and Eva Braun is played by Lotte Tobisch. The premiere will take place in April.

"The Giant and The Maiden" is the title of a feature dance film with some dramatic background now being produced by the Hoela Film Company of Vienna. The director is Kurt Steinwendner and the choreography is by the well-known Austrian dancer, Rosalia Chladek.

The Patria Film Company of Graz is planning to produce a film entitled "Ringstrassenmelodie" which will feature the history of Vienna's famous circular thoroughfare, the "Ringstrasse." Hans Schott-Schoebinger will direct this film.

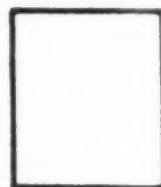
NEW FILM ON GYPSIES IN AUSTRIA SHOT. The young Austrian ethnologist, Walter Dostal, in cooperation with the Vienna Museum of Ethnology, has produced a documentary film on the two Gypsy tribes now living in Austria — the "Romanies," who have settled in Burgenland and the nomadic "Sinti" tribe. Mr. Dostal, who has gathered a considerable amount of important material on these two tribes, estimates the number of Gypsies living in Austria today as approximately 4,500.

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

PUBLISHED BY THE

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE

31 EAST 69th STREET • NEW YORK 21, N.Y. • TELEPHONE: LEHIGH 5-4120



APR 11 1955
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